

all of these orders in their Christian teaching, blending naturally and harmoniously together. It is well known that the old orders of Knighthood, were during the last century much prized in the higher degrees of Free Masonry, which induced not only the formation of many Masonic degrees quite unknown excepting to masons, but also the attributing *Masonic secrets* and ceremonies to *Military Orders* of which those who originated them never dreamt amongst these is the "Red cross of Rome and Constantine" the true but, *totally unmasonic order*, being a State order of the Byzantium Empire.

The question of wearing the *apron* or *surcoat* in Encampments, was lately referred to me. The present regulation in England leaves it optional but in my opinion the *apron*, the clothing of "*care and toil*" should be entirely laid aside; the *white* surcoat, which was anciently worn over the armour of Knights, is the most appropriate. Its color represents a *pure life*, and the red cross *patee*, the emblem of our faith and Order. It may not be uninteresting to know the old Heraldic explanation of this *Cross*, which derives its name *patee* from the Latin word *patulus*, implying spread or open, and has its extreme ending *broad*, it has also allusion to the opening wings of a bird who covers her young, and thus protects them from injury; it also represents the opening virtues of the Christian Soldier who has shielded the weak and innocent from oppression and wrong. It has been argued, that the adoption of the *apron*, points out our dependence on "Free Masonry;" but as an *organization*, the Templar Order is entirely independent of Masonry, although we can only claim by adoption to represent the ancient order of Knighthood, and whatever enthusiastic writers may assert it never could have had any connection with *Speculative Free Masonry* a comparatively Modern institution. Our constitutions only require that candidates be Royal Arch Masons, (in England the climax of the craft degrees), such association with the Masonic Fraternity insuring as far as possible well known and eligible members and the best and surest means of testing the character of men and their moral fitness to become members of the exalted and christian order of the temple.

I beg now to draw your attention to a subject which requires to be carefully weighed and considered before any hasty or rash action is determined on. I allude, to the strong feeling which I am given to understand is entertained by many of the Canadian Templars, of forming an independent body and separating from the parent stock. I am aware that the annulling of my Dispensation to the "*Union de Molay*" Encept, gave rise to considerable dissatisfaction, as tending to lower the authority of your chief officer, but I look upon this affair as a misunderstanding throughout. That the requirements of Canadian Templars and indeed others of the higher Masonic orders, is not fully understood in England, I feel certain.